

New ADA Standards for Accessible Design in effect (18 months transition)

On Friday, July 23, 2010, Attorney General Eric Holder, US Department of Justice (DOJ) signed final regulations revising the Department's ADA regulations, including its ADA Standards for Accessible Design. These regulations will be published in the Federal Register.

The DOJ's Final Regulatory Impact Analysis will be posted on the ADA web page as soon as it is available <http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAREgs2010.htm>.

In general, these final rules will take effect 6 months after the date on which they are published in the Federal Register. Compliance with the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design is permitted after that date, but not required until 18 months after the date of publication.

DOJ's regulations allow covered entities the choice of following either the updated standards or the original standards during the first 18 months. After this period of time, use of the 2010 standards will become mandatory. In setting the effective dates, DOJ sought to allow sufficient time for transitioning to the updated standards so as not to disrupt design and construction projects already underway. DOJ's new rules also revise or supplement other sections of its ADA regulations, including those covering existing facilities, service animals, policies and programs, maintenance of accessible features, auxiliary aids and services, and effective communication. The new rules and additional information are available on DOJ's ADA website. New Regulations can be obtained at: <http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAREgs2010.htm>